

Millennium Cohort Family Study

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Background



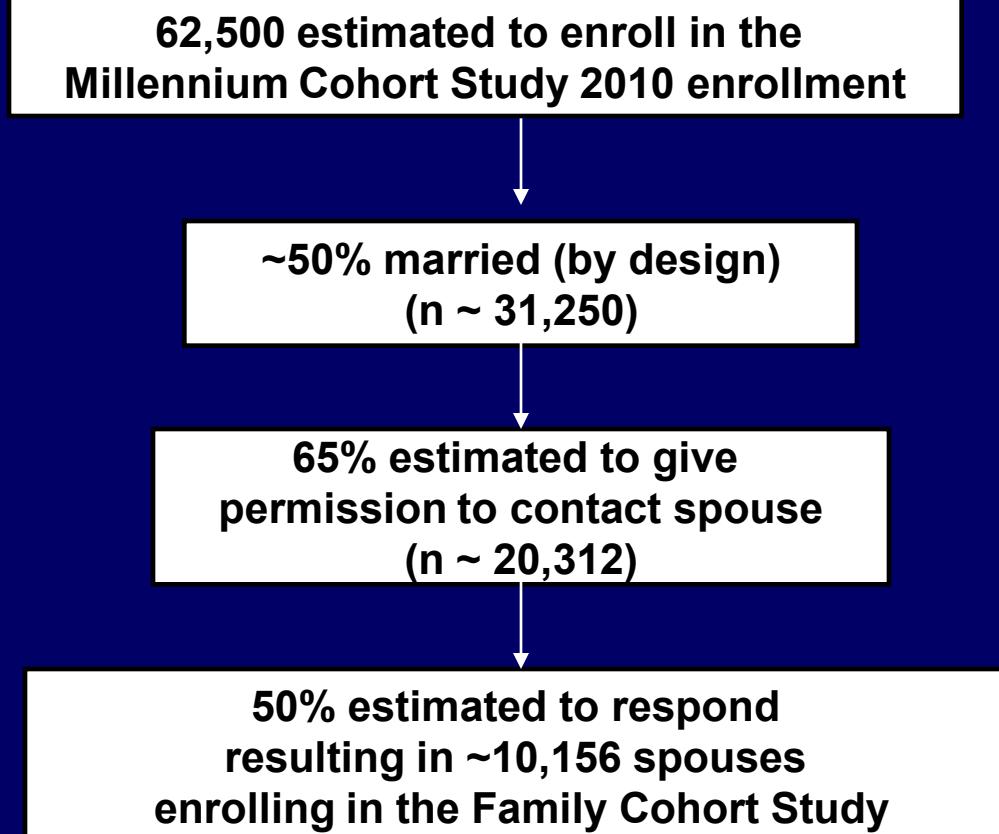
- Few epidemiologic studies have examined the impact of deployment on family members and family functioning
- Family relationships can be a source of support or stress for service members
- The Millennium Cohort Study has enrolled over 151,000 members since 2001 that are surveyed every 3 years to understand the health effects of military service
- A family cohort will be added to the 2010 Millennium Cohort enrollment cycle to assess the interrelated health effects of military service and deployment on service members, spouses, and co-resident children
- Family survey will include topics such as impact of deployment and military service on spouse and family, services received, family cohesion, and behavior and development of children

Objectives

- Answer important health related questions about military service members and their families in the context of military deployment and other occupational exposures
- Assess the importance of family support and other factors on health outcomes



Family Study Enrollment Design





Methodology

- 1% sample pilot testing
- Married service members will be asked to grant permission to contact spouse
- Target: Enroll ~10,000 spouses
 - Estimated half of spouses' service member will have been deployed to OIF/OEF at least once
- Link to other military data to complement subjective measures with objective measures of exposures and health outcomes

Methodology



- Questionnaire leverages standard instruments (PHQ, PCL, SF-36V, CAGE, FACES IV, ISI, others)
- Includes measures of physical health, behavioral health, mental health, and family functioning
- Includes important exposure questions and other metrics (CAM use, sleep, etc.)
- Participants respond via secure website:
www.familycohort.org

A screenshot of the official website for The Family Cohort Study. The header features the study's name and a photo of a family. The main navigation bar includes links for HOME, SURVEY, PARTICIPANTS, F.A.Q., and ABOUT US. On the left, there's a sidebar with links for "Have you relocated?", "WHAT'S NEW" (Study Update, Veterans Day Postcard, Free Gift!), "ENDORSEMENTS", "RESEARCH" (Publications, Presentations, Awards), "PRESS", and "CONTACT US". The central content area has a section titled "The Family Cohort Study" showing a photo of a child interacting with a military member. Below this, there's a detailed description of the study's purpose and enrollment process. At the bottom, a small note about the study's location and regulatory approvals is visible.

Partnering Organizations and Co-Principal Investigators



- **DoD funding via Military Operational Medicine Research Program (MOMRP), administered by USAMRMC**
- **Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) between NHRC and Abt Associates, Inc.**
- **Co-Principal Investigators:**
 - **John Fairbank, PhD, Duke University**
 - **Charles Marmar, MD, New York University**
 - **William Schlenger, Abt Associates Inc. and Duke University**
 - **Tyler Smith, MS, PhD, Naval Health Research Center**

Important Partners



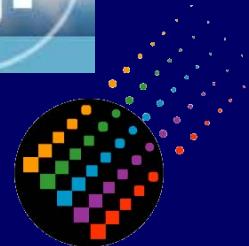
- Defense Manpower Data Center



- Henry M. Jackson Foundation



- Anderson Direct Mailing Company



- Others



Measured Health Outcomes and Impact



Main Survey Topics

- Demographic information
- General health (including sleep)
- Spouse, family, child, and service member stress
- Impact of deployment and military service
- Family cohesion, expressiveness, and conflict
- Child behavioral, developmental, and general health
- Health services
- Alcohol and tobacco use
- Military specific questions for active-duty spouses

Research will facilitate identification of specific interventions:

- Deployment-related stress
- Family member resilience
- Family support dynamics
- Service member and family well-being
- Force readiness

Future Direction



- In 2010, the Millennium Cohort Family Study is projected to launch and enroll spouses of military service members
- By 2012, data collected from the Millennium Cohort Family Study would provide strategic information for DoD leadership
- Securing funding for this longitudinal study is essential to better understand the long-term effects of military service on military member and family health

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